

A NEW SUBSPECIES OF *LEWISIA* (PORTULACACEAE) IN CALIFORNIA

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ABSTRACT

A new subspecies of *Lewisia kelloggii* K. Brandegee is described: ssp. *hutchisonii* from Sierra Co., California.

There are two species of *Lewisia* that appear to have a 4-parted calyx, consisting, in fact, of two sepals and two similar bracts closely beneath them. One is *Lewisia brachycalyx* Engelm. ex Gray of the southwestern United States, the other *L. kelloggii* K. Brandegee, which occurs in the Sierra Nevada of California, from Plumas Co. south to Mariposa Co., and also in Elmore Co, Idaho.

In July, 1982, on a bare slate ridge in Sierra Co., Paul Hutchison collected a *Lewisia* similar to *L. kelloggii*, but much larger in all respects, somewhat less fleshy, and pink flowered. Paul and I attempted to recollect this plant in July, 1989, but found that it had produced leaves and flower buds and then dried without developing further. The plants are apparently dependent on melted snow from the knoll a little above, and this year the runoff had been insufficient to result in flowering. Enough photosynthesis probably occurred, however, before the flower buds were formed, to enable the plants to survive perhaps several dry winters. The following description is made from dried material:

Lewisia kelloggii K. Brandegee ssp. ***hutchisonii*** Dempster, ssp. nov.—TYPE: USA, California, Sierra Co., Saddleback Mountain, about 9 miles north of Downieville, July, 1982, P. C. Hutchison 8105 (holotype JEPS). West of the summit on north-facing slope, slate ridge at 1800 m.

Subspecies a typo magnitudine majore floribusque roseis differt: folia 4–10 cm longa; sepala 11–14 mm longa; bracteae 7.5–10 mm longae; petala 25–30 mm longa.

Only the type collection is known. I have seen no intermediates.

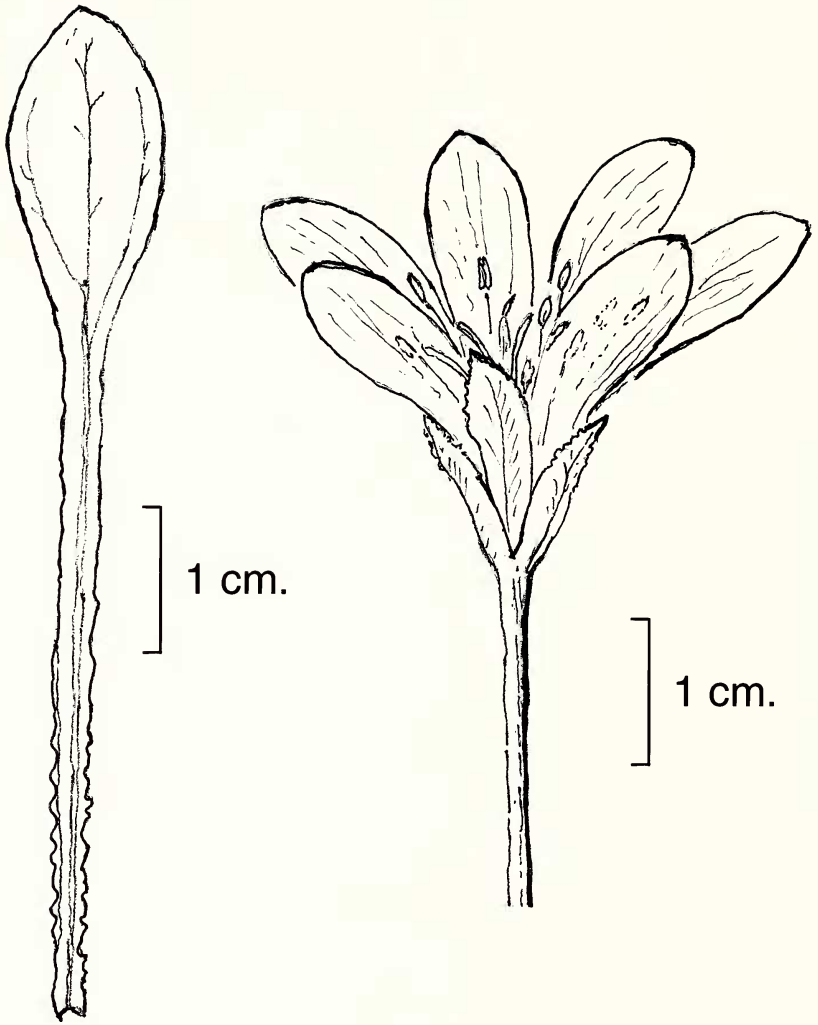


FIG. 1. Leaf and flowering stem, from *Hutchison 8105*.

KEY TO SUBSPECIES

1. Leaves 2–6 cm long; petals 10 mm long, white, off-white or pinkish
 ssp. *kelloggii*
1. Leaves 4–10 cm long; petals 25–30 mm long, pink ssp. *hutchisonii*

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